

From HBPA@aol.com

Sent Saturday, October 16, 2010 5:30 pm

To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

Cc [REDACTED]

Subject Scoping Comments in opposition to the plan

Comments to Sanctuary Scoping Meeting

Please see my comments made in the meeting Breakout Group conducted in the Public Meeting held at the Central Union Church a few months ago.

My main concerns are that the present sanctuary boundaries were established to enhance Humpback whale recovery only. The proclivities of other species were not a consideration in the design of the sanctuary size and locations. Therefore I find that the proposed plan to retain and expand the sanctuary boundaries to accommodate (yet to be determined) additional species has no rational basis. If the humpback has "graduated" from its sanctuary due to its numbers increasing to the predetermined recovery milestones prescribed by the ESA and MMPA, the sanctuary should be discontinued. Then the "Yet to be determined" additional species must be identified and their sanctuary requirements (size, location, etc.) determined. The "tailor made for Humpbacks" sanctuary might not be a good fit. It could be too big (or small), or not in the right location for whatever the additional specie(s) turns out to be. It appears that NOAA is attempting convert the single specie humpback whale sanctuary into an "all comers" sanctuary without knowing if it is appropriate for the "all comers" species.

I liken this attempt to retain and even expand the present sanctuary to a landlord (NOAA) that realizes that his tenant (humpback whale) is going to leave, and he is frantically looking for other tenants (additional species) to keep the sanctuary occupied and the revenue coming in to continue the payroll.

Equally important is the fact that Hawaii, one of the smallest states, has given up (lost) more of its sovereign area to the Federal government than most, if not all of the other states (i.e. Papahānaumokuākea). This is land that the State of Hawaii has effectively lost control over, and thus relinquished sources of income that should have benefited the Hawaii population. We are over Federalized in this respect, and must oppose any attempts by the sanctuary to acquire more State lands for an unnecessary sanctuary.

The Hi Humpback Whale Sanctuary has been successful. The Humpbacks have reached their population goals. In that this sanctuary was/is a single species sanctuary it should now be closed. Failure to do this will generate great distrust by the public for renegeing on a

bonafide commitment and trying to unilaterally retain the sanctuary for purposes that have not been clearly established nor publicly reviewed and approved.

If there are species worthy of a sanctuary, let's hear the justification, and if warranted, start the process of establishing a sanctuary designed to accommodate the recovery needs of those species. We strongly oppose this proposal to keep the Humpback Sanctuary open by gathering additional species to move in just because there is a vacancy.

Sincerely,

William E. Mossman
Hawaii Boaters Political Action Association

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